LIBRARY

WEST MERSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

9, East Stockwell Street,
Colchester,
13th May, 1936.

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE WEST MERSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report on the Health and Vital Statistics of the District for the year 1935.

The report is compiled in accordance with the instructions laid down in the Ministry of Health Circular No. 1492, dated 18th October, 1935.

The Birth Rate when corrected by the factor supplied by the Registrar-General is again low, being 8·5 per 1,000, and compares with 11·7 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. ALDERTON.

Cullingford & Co., Ltd., Stockwell Works, Colchester

West Mersea Urban District Council.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area—3,188 Acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid 1935—2,289.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1935) according to Rate Books—852.

Rateable Value—£13,329.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£52.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The District is a compact Island community situated at the estuaries of the Rivers Colne and Blackwater, and about nine miles from Colchester, with which it is connected by means of an excellent motor-'bus service. It is in a very healthy position, and enjoys the patronage of many visitors during the summer months.

Most of the houses are owner occupied and have town amenities, being connected to the sewer and water mains and being able to take a supply of electricity from the mains of the Corporation of Colchester.

There is very little unemployment, and the main industries are fishing, building and agriculture; in addition there is a certain amount of employment on yachts.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M.	F.	Birth Rate per
Births	Legitimate	19	12	7	1,000 of the estimated resident population 8·7
	Illegitimate	1	1	0	
Stillbirths		0	0	0	Rate per 1,000 total Births—0
Deaths		29	14	15	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 12·6

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES. (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List).

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total Births.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes ..	0	0
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age, ...		0
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births, ...		0
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births, ...		0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		0

DEATHS IN VARIOUS AGE GROUPS. (Local Statistics).

Age Group.	No. of Deaths.
0— 1	0
1— 5	0
5—15	1
15—25	0
25—35	1
35—45	3
45—55	0
55—65	5
65—75	8
75 and upwards	11
Total	29

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.
Influenza	0	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis	0	2
Cancer	1	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	2	1
Heart Disease	3	4
Aneurysm	0	1
Other Circulatory	1	0
Bronchitis	1	0
Other Liver Diseases	1	0
Nephritis	1	1
Senility	1	0
Other Violence	2	0
Other Defined Causes	1	3

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

The Medical Officer—W. H. Alderton, M.C., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. He is also Medical Officer of Health for the neighbouring Rural District and Assistant County Medical Officer.

The Sanitary Inspector—E. F. Pressey, A.R.S.I. He is also Highway Surveyor for the District. Resigned 23rd September, 1935.

A. W. Plowright, C.R.S.I. Appointed 1st November, 1935.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. NURSING IN THE HOME. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. HOSPITALS. AMBULANCE SERVICES.

There have been no alterations in the arrangements in respect of these services. Details of the facilities have been set out in previous reports.

The following table shows the extent to which the laboratory has been used :—

Specimen.	No. Examined.
Diphtheria	6
Sputa	3
Ringworm	1
Miscellaneous	17
	27

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The District possesses a public supply from a deep bore. This has been satisfactorily maintained throughout the year. The quality, though slightly salt to the taste, is of good quality and has proved on analysis to be of an excellent character.

Thirty-five connections were made to new and existing properties.

One small extension was made to the Going Estate.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The effluent from the Southern bed at the Disposal Works was found to be unsatisfactory, and the Council decided to reconstruct it. This was done during the Autumn, after which a satisfactory effluent was produced.

Forty-six houses were connected to the sewer.

Rivers and Streams.

No action was required to check the pollution of rivers and streams in the area.

Closet Accommodation.

The majority of houses on the line of the sewer are connected. In the more populated area there are properties unable to be connected to the present sewers ; they have their own cesspools. It is hoped that extensions will be made to the sewer to enable these properties to be connected.

In the rural part of the district pail closets are used.

On the houseboats in the estuary chemical closets are in use.

Beach and Foreshore.

A large portion of the foreshore is being negotiated for by the Council. When possession is obtained suitable arrangements will be made for its supervision and cleanliness.

One Public Convenience is already erected in this area, and others are being contemplated.

Public Cleansing.

Dry refuse is collected by Contract once weekly, and deposited in a pit ; this is controlled by the Council. Householders are responsible for emptying their own pail closets and cesspits.

Shops.

It was not necessary to take action under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, except by informal notice in the matter of refuse disposal and sanitary convenience.

Smoke Abatement.

No action was taken or necessary to abate nuisance from smoke.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools in the District.

Schools.

There is one public elementary school in the district ; it is connected to the public water main and to the sewer. Its general sanitary condition is satisfactory.

It was unnecessary to close it on account of Infections Disease.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

16th April, 1936.

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE WEST MERSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report of work carried out during the year ending 31st December, 1935.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

During the year the Council forwarded 10 samples of milk taken from Retailers and Producers for analysis.

Details of Inspections—

Cowsheds inspected	23
Dairies inspected	25
Samples taken	10

Meat and Other Foods.

Food Shops inspected	12
Slaughter Houses visited for inspection of Meat	47

Diseased meat found—

Mesenteries	2

1 Churn of Milk condemned—putrefaction.

Ice Cream.

The provisions of Part II. of the Essex County Council Act relating to the manufacture and sale and retail of ice cream were carried out during the year.

Five inspections of premises were made.

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR.

Housing.

Houses visited—Public Health Acts	57
Slaughterhouses visited	47
Foodshops visited	12
Cowsheds and Dairies visited	48
Bakehouses visited	4
Ice-cream producers and retailers visited	16
Dustbins required	10
Defective outbuildings	3

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Houses connected with the public sewer and new drainage work executed	4
Sanitary accommodation at camps visited	3
Defective Cesspools	3

WATER SUPPLY.

Inspection of private supply	3
Connections with the mains	46

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Channels required repair	2
Limewashing required	4
New Floors required	2
Unsuitable approaches	1
Defective drainage	1

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Nil.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Deposits of refuse	46
Overcrowding complaint	1
Nuisance from poultry	2
Drainage nuisance	1
Shops Act inspections	56
Fish Fryers	3

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. W. PLOWRIGHT,

Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING.

Houses erected—

By the Local Authority	0
By other Local Authorities	0
By private enterprise	30

1—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

1 (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts	57
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	63

2 (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	57
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	57
3	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	0
4	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	12

2—Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	12

3—Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

Under the Housing Act, 1930, sections 17, 18, 23. and under the Public Health Acts	Nil
Demolition Orders	Nil
Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930..	Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

All Dairies and Dairy Farms in the District have been visited at frequent intervals. Every endeavour is made to comply with the Milk and Dairies Order, etc.

Samples of milk have been submitted at intervals to the Counties Laboratory, 91, Queen Victoria Street, London.

Officers of the County Council have also visited dairy herds in the District and samples of milk have also been submitted to the Laboratory by them.

Meat and Other Foods.

Slaughterhouses and shops have been regularly inspected, and here a satisfactory standard of cleanliness has been maintained.

Adulterations, Etc.

Officers of the County Council take samples in compliance with the Food and Drugs Acts and Regulations (1922—1929).

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

The Counties Laboratory, 91, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4, is used for sending samples of milk, oysters, etc., from this District.

Two samples of Oysters were found on analysis to be pure and wholesome.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The District is very healthy and little ill-health is experienced.

One case of Diphtheria was recorded.

The Council has an agreement with the Borough of Colchester, and to this Authority a yearly contribution is made for the reservation of cases at their Isolation Hospital at Mile End.

Disinfections which may be required are carried out by arrangement with a neighbouring Authority.

No action has been taken to provide artificial immunisation against Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness or treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

Tuberculosis.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

TABLE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

Disease.	Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Pneumonia	2	—	1
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum . .	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia . .	1	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
25—35	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—

Report on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	4	—	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	7	—	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
Total	11	—	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects. Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :*				
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Want of ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation — insufficient	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation — unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation — not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	—	—	—	—
Other offences (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.